



HR0891

LRB097 20942 GRL 68057 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Walstone Elisha Francis
4 for his work as a pastor; and

5 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis is a native of Nassau, Bahamas;
6 he was born on January 9, 1953; his parents are Drs. Earle and
7 Marjorie Francis; he became a United States citizen on July 19,
8 1994; and

9 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis received his elementary and high
10 school education in Nassau; he accepted Christ at the age of
11 17; in 1971, he was licensed to preach by his father Dr. Earle
12 Francis of the First Baptist Church in Nassau; he came to the
13 United States that same year; and

14 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis earned his Bachelor of Theology
15 and Bachelor of Arts Degrees from American Baptist College of
16 American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee;
17 he later earned his honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from
18 Selma University in Selma, Alabama in 1989; and

19 WHEREAS, On February 28, 1974, Walstone Francis was
20 ordained in the Gospel Ministry by Rev. Wellington A. Johnson.
21 Sr., then Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Smyrna,

1 Tennessee; he served as Pastor of Mt. View Baptist Church in
2 Smyrna, Tennessee from 1974 to 1979, and the Alpha Missionary
3 Baptist Church in Franklin, Kentucky from 1980 to 1992; on
4 January 8, 1992, he was called to pastor the Shiloh Baptist
5 Church of Waukegan; he accepted the call on January 26, 1992
6 and assumed the pastorate on March 1, 1992; on May 3, 1992, he
7 was officially installed as pastor by Dr. Earle Francis and
8 Pastor Wellington Johnson; and

9 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis has served with numerous
10 religious organizations, including the Franklin-Simpson
11 Ministerial Fellowship, the Sunday Church School and Baptist
12 Training Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention of
13 America; Young Adult Sunday School Quarterly, the National
14 Baptist Publishing Board of the National Missionary Baptist
15 Convention of America, the Committee on Uniform Series,
16 Education for Christian Life and Mission of the Division of the
17 National Council of Churches, U.S.A., and the New Era District
18 Association of Chicago & Vicinity; he has served as a volunteer
19 Chaplain at Victory Memorial Hospital, St. Theresa Hospital,
20 and the Lake County Jail in Waukegan; in August of 2003, he was
21 appointed to the Waukegan Civil Service Commission by Mayor
22 Richard Hyde; in 2009, he resigned as instructor of the
23 Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist
24 Convention, USA, Inc.; he has also been a member of the NAACP,
25 the Human Rights Commission in Franklin, Kentucky, and the

1 Barren River Mental Health and Mental Retardation Board in
2 Howling Green, Kentucky; and

3 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis currently serves as an
4 instructor at the Christian Leadership School of the Baptist
5 General State Congress of Christian Education; he is the
6 Chairman of Foreign Missions for the Baptist General State
7 Convention of Illinois; he is an adult writer for the Sunday
8 School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention,
9 USA, Inc.; he is also an organizer and former Moderator of the
10 Lake Shore Baptist District in Waukegan and Vicinity; and

11 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis is well known within the
12 Christian ministry as a passionate and effective pastor,
13 preacher, and teacher of the gospel, whose special gifts in his
14 knowledge of the Word and ability to explain the Scriptures for
15 easy comprehension are beyond comparison; and

16 WHEREAS, Walstone Francis has been married to his loving
17 wife, Mrs. Angelia Rene Otey Williams; the special family that
18 the Lord has given them is composed of Ronald (deceased),
19 Angelica, Diesha, Dyasha, John, Jakeyha, Shawntrice, Nigel,
20 Cameron, Lantz, Michaela, Marion, Jamir Elisha, Jamya Rene, and
21 Elijah Emanuel; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we honor Walstone Elisha Francis for his work as a pastor and
3 wish him continued success and happiness in the future; and be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Walstone Francis as a symbol of our esteem and
7 respect.